

Notice of Public Scoping

**Grazing Permit Renewals
and
Land Health Assessments**

Comment Period: Open until **October 31, 2005**

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The Saguache Field Office (SAFO) is soliciting public comments on the following two topics: First, we would like assistance in prioritizing allotments for the assessment of public land health standards for Colorado. Secondly, we intend to renew 5 grazing permit\leases in 2006. We need to determine the level of public interest, concern, and resource conditions on each of the allotments up for assessment and renewal.

The assessment of public land health will be done on an allotment basis. During FY 2006 the Saguache Field Office will be completing land health assessment(s) in the following: Tracy Common, Rock Creek, Mirage, Dry Gulch (near Crestone), San Isabel, and Cotton Creek Allotments.

Once the FO receives the public comments, the staff will meet as an interdisciplinary team. Public comments and all other available information provided, will be used by the FO Inter-Disciplinary Team to complete the Land Health Assessment.

Following are the allotments and acreage identified in the Saguache FO that we are soliciting input regarding when the assessment will be initiated.

Name	Federal Acreage
Stonehouse	3,869
Copper Butte	4,830
South Tracy	1,602
Noland Gulch	7,650

The Saguache FO will also be completing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and making decisions on the renewal of certain grazing permit/leases.

Since the level of NEPA analysis is in part driven by the level of public interest and concern, your comments are requested relative to conditions you have observed on these allotments, and/or specific environmental concerns about the lands and/or resources found within the specific allotment. The more specific and factual your information is, the more helpful and useful it will be.

An interdisciplinary team will rank the expiring permits into high and low priority categories based on public comments and all other information available. The ranking will help determine the amount of consideration necessary and the appropriate level of NEPA documentation for reaching a decision on each grazing permit renewal. The ranking will also help to allocate resources to address concerns on a priority basis.

The following BLM grazing permits/leases are scheduled for renewal in FY2006 on the following BLM grazing allotments in the Saguache FO:

Allotment Name	Federal Acres	Permittee/Lessee	Land Area
Tracy Common	25,420	Gery J. Dirks George Whitten Jr. R. Earl Davey Davey Family Partnership Danny Temple	Saguache FO
Mirage	2,275	Tim Glenn	Saguache FO
Dry Gulch	690	Gary Boyce	Saguache FO
San Isabel	820	Gary Boyce	Saguache FO
Cotton Creek	3,880	Gary Boyce	Saguache FO
Rock Creek	15,363	John Noffsker	Del Norte FO

If you have any information or concerns, wish to be considered as an interested party on a permit or allotment, or wish to be involved in a health of the land assessment, please contact the individual at the address above to be put on a mailing list. If you do have not specific comments at this time but have questions about the land areas or allotments listed in this notice, contact the individual at the address above.